

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 03091 241226Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
DODE-00 /040 W

-----015925 250720Z /15

R 240938Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5572
INFO USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
COMUSFJ YOKOTA AB
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 3091

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: CH JA MILI PEPR
SUBJECT: JAPANESE COLONELS TO MAKE SEPARATE VISITS TO PEKING
AND MOSCOW

REF: (A) PEKING 0488 (NOTAL); (B) TOKYO 1744

1. ON MARCH 22, ONE JAPANESE COLONEL WILL DEPART FOR VISIT
TO PEKING (REF A), AND ONE JDA COLONEL WILL MAKE SEPARATE
TRIP TO MOSCOW. (ACCORDING TO DAO RECORDS, BOTH VISITS
ARE FIRST SUCH SINCE END WORLD WAR II.) JDA FOREIGN AFFAIRS
DIRECTOR GENERAL OTSUKA TOLD EMBOFF FEBRUARY 24 THAT CHINESE
HAVE BEEN ALMOST TOO FORTHCOMING IN REPLY TO JDA REQUEST FOR
JAPANESE COLONEL TO: (1) CONSULT WITH JAPANESE
DEFATT IN PEKING; (2) CALL ON CHINESE DEFENSE MINISTRY; AND
(3) TOUR PRC MILITARY INSTALLATIONS. PROBLEM FOR JAPANESE
IS THAT PRC WANTS TO FINANCE ENTIRE TRIP (REF A),
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CITING ITS UNDERSTANDING THAT MAIN PURPOSE OF VISIT IS
TO VIEW PRC MILITARY INSTALLATIONS. THROUGH DIPLOMATIC
CHANNELS, JAPANESE HAVE POLITELY REFUSED CHINESE OFFER
TO SPONSOR TRIP AND ARE NOW WAITING FOR PRC RESPONSE TO
SEE IF COLONEL WILL BE ALLOWED TO DO MORE THAN JUST
CONSULT WITH JAPANESE DEFATT, EVEN IF JDA PAYS COSTS.

2. SOVIET RESPONSE WAS AS EXPECTED LESS FORTHCOMING, ALTHOUGH CURIOUSLY, ACCORDING TO OTSUKA, IT CAME ON EXACTLY SAME DAY AS CHINESE ONE (FEBRUARY 6). SOVIETS SAID THEY WOULD RECEIVE JAPANESE COLONEL, BUT ONLY FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH JAPANESE DEFATT IN MOSCOW. THEY TURNED DOWN JDA REQUEST FOR COLONEL TO CALL AT SOVIET DEFENSE MINISTRY AND VISIT SOVIET MILITARY INSTALLATIONS.

3. VISIT OF JAPANESE COLONEL TO CHINA HAS BEEN REPORTED IN JAPANESE PRESS, BUT THUS FAR THERE HAS BEEN NOTHING SAID PUBLICLY ABOUT MOSCOW VISIT.

4. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH JAPANESE TRYING HARD FOR POLICY OF EQUIDISTANCE TOWARD THEIR TWO LARGE NEIGHBORS, CHINESE SHOULD SCORE SIGNIFICANT PROPAGANDA POINTS WITH FIRST VISIT EVER OF ACTIVE-DUTY JAPANESE MILITARY OFFICER TO PEKING. MANSFIELD

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